

# **YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM**

## **2010 ANNUAL REPORT**

**Missouri Department of Economic Development**



## **YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR 2010**

---

The Youth Opportunities Program (YOP) is authorized to allocate up to \$6 million in tax credits per calendar year for projects that target Missouri's at-risk youth. Through the 2010 application cycle, YOP allocated a total of \$5,086,048 in tax credits to 41 youth projects throughout the state. Contributions to these projects will fund programming for 36 youth service projects, the construction of one new facility, and the renovation and/or expansion of four facilities. A 2010 project list is enclosed.

Approved 2010 projects have the potential to generate \$10,172,096 in contributions, leveraging approximately \$5.1 million in private sector dollars. Since its inception in 1997, YOP has raised \$101,264,238 in contributions for projects focused on serving Missouri's at-risk youth.

YOP primarily partners with non-profits that work in their communities to develop and implement projects and services for at-risk youth. Non-profits team up with the Youth Opportunities Program to leverage private dollars to fund projects that meet this goal. These programs help youth overcome their current circumstances and realize their potential as productive citizens. YOP is an incentive for non-profits to provide specialized programming for disadvantaged youth who would otherwise not have such opportunities.

In 1998, the Youth Opportunities Program adopted seven program outcomes as a means to measure and verify the impact the program is having throughout the state. Those project outcomes focused on the following areas: youth will remain in school; obtain high school diplomas or earn GEDs; participate in internships and employment training; learn conflict resolution techniques; abstain from drugs and alcohol and pregnancy prevention. In 2009, outcomes were revised to give priority to the following five areas of impact:

- 1. Increase the number of at-risk youth that receive a high school diploma.**
- 2. Increase the number of at-risk youth that receive a GED.**
- 3. Increase the number of at-risk youth that remain in school and earn course credit(s) toward a diploma.**
- 4. Reduce the number of at-risk youth committing crimes and violent acts.**
- 5. Increase the number of at-risk youth that have completed an employment skills education and development program.**

Table 1.1 (below) shows the amount of tax credits redeemed to date and reflects the true cost to the State for the outcomes achieved in Table 1.2. Taxpayers have the tax year in which they made a contribution, plus five succeeding tax years to redeem their tax credits.

**Table 1.1: Tax Credit Utilization**

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>Credits Authorized To Date<sup>1</sup></b>	\$5,861,599	\$5,982,165	\$5,049,280
<b>Credits Issued To Date<sup>2</sup></b>	\$4,987,421	\$3,270,243	\$887,987
<b>Credits Redeemed To Date<sup>3</sup></b>	\$3,727,079	\$1,762,332	\$9,969

<sup>1</sup> Credits Authorized = Total Amount Authorized each calendar year minus recaptured, as of 12/31/2010.

<sup>2</sup> Credits Issued = Total Credits issued as of 12/31/2010 for the projects authorized in each calendar year.

<sup>3</sup> Credits Redeemed = Total Credits that have been redeemed by contributing taxpayers as of 12/31/2010 for Contributions made to projects authorized in each year.

YOP projects that ended and were closed from 2008-2010 have reported the following results under each of the program outcomes (Table 1.2). The numbers are the totals to date for the projects that ended in each year. The outcome totals fluctuate from year to year due to varying project time frames and the types of projects funded each year. Some numbers may include duplicated youth if the youth participate in the program more than one year or if they achieved more than one outcome.

**Table 1.2: Outcomes Achieved**

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b># of Jobs Retained and New</b>	355	219	160
<b># Earning High School Diploma or GED</b>	281	433	27
<b># Earning School Credits/ Improving GPA</b>	3,338	25,924	940
<b># Not Committing Crimes &amp;/or completing Violence Prevention Courses</b>	2,646	9,345	1,528
<b># Abstaining from Drug &amp; Alcohol Use &amp; completing Prevention Programs</b>	2,517	4,567	1,364
<b># Completing Life Skills Training/Mentoring</b>	469	3,379	869
<b># Learning Employment Skills/Job Placement</b>	735	1,455	222
<b># Increasing Knowledge in Science, Math, Business</b>	27,192	288	14,324
<b># Achieving Other Outcomes</b>	2,997	5,822	974

As shown by the outcome data above, numerous projects are successfully helping youth become more productive adults with YOP tax credits as a tool. St. Patrick Center and Good Samaritan Boys Ranch are two such projects. With YOP, these organizations are contributing in a very real way to meet the needs of disadvantaged youth in our communities. The following summaries demonstrate the ways in which each of these agencies are making positive, lasting differences in the lives of Missouri's youth.

Approved for a one year project, St. Patrick Center has utilized YOP tax credits to carry out Project Yes We Can! Based at the St. Patrick Partnership Center in St. Louis, Project Yes We Can! provides a comprehensive array of services that engenders positive development and self-sufficiency in its targeted clients, homeless and impoverished youth ages 17 -21. Youth entering the program face vast challenges to self-sufficiency, employment and life success, including homelessness, poverty, mental illness, a history of abuse and/or neglect, lack of a high school diploma or any meaningful employment skills, and no family support system.



Through Project Yes We Can! these youth receive an assessment of needs, an individual services plan which includes life skills training, GED training and educational supports, financial stability coaching, job-readiness classes and job skills training, parenting education and childcare, and ongoing case management.

The overarching goal of Project Yes We Can! is to provide St. Louis's most at-risk youth with the comprehensive services needed to break the cycles of poverty, homelessness, child abuse, and crime, to become successful, productive members of their communities. The program provides services to more than 200 at-risk youth annually.

St. Patrick Center's YOP performance targets for the project include:

- 60 at-risk youth participating in employment programs will increase their ability to obtain and maintain employment and will demonstrate improved employment skills.
- 11 at-risk youth will received their GED certificates or high school diplomas through Fast Track GED classes or high school attendance.
- 5 at-risk youth receiving training stipends and stabilization services will graduate from advanced job-skills training.
- 10 at-risk youth participating in ABE/GED courses will advance two grade levels in reading and/or mathematics.
- 75 at-risk youth participating in Independent Living Skills classes will demonstrate increased knowledge of and/or improved life and parenting skills.

The Good Samaritan Boys Ranch, located in Brighton, is also successfully participating in the YOP program. With the aid of YOP tax credits, the nonprofit has constructed an 11,500 square foot group home in Springfield to house its Footsteps Transitional Living Program.

The Footsteps program provides a continuum of services for young men who are wards of the State and aging out of the foster care system. Youth entering the program receive comprehensive, individualized needs assessments, residential care, educational opportunities such as GED preparation and financial literacy classes, vocational education or job training, life skills classes, mentoring, and counseling services. Footsteps incorporates multiple levels of structure and supervision for youth, to coincide with each individual's level of responsibility and maturity. As youth progress through the program, they move from group homes, to apartment suites, to structured apartments, and finally to unstructured apartments. While enrolled, participants are required to continue their education and/or be employed either on campus or in the community. The Footsteps program also provides aftercare to ensure continued success for youth exiting the program. The program provides services to approximately 40 young men annually.

Construction of the facility has enabled Good Samaritan Boys Ranch to consolidate services, increasing the supervision and support available to youth and making the transition to independence less difficult. The new facility includes 20 bedrooms, a training room, offices for staff, and common areas such as a living room, recreation room, and kitchen and dining area.

Good Samaritan Boys Ranch, through its Footsteps program, is carrying out its mission to help these at-risk young men successfully transition to adulthood with the necessary skills to live independently and become productive members of the community.



## Youth Opportunities Program - 2010 Project List

Requestor	Authorized Amount	Credits Issued
(NCADA) National Council On Alcoholism And Drug Abuse	\$240,000.00	\$38,090.00
4-Sight Counseling, Inc.	\$199,623.00	\$5,000.00
Aim High St. Louis	\$128,256.00	\$0
Big Brothers Big Sisters Of Eastern Missouri	\$250,000.00	\$70,470.00
Boys And Girls Club Of Poplar Bluff	\$31,975.00	\$500.00
Boys And Girls Clubs Of Greater Kansas City	\$161,838.00	\$48,685.00
Butterfield Youth Services, Inc.	\$59,843.00	\$17,800.00
Catholic Comprehensive Services For Children	\$250,000.00	\$9,525.00
Coyote Hill Christian Children's Home	\$218,059.00	\$80,477.00
DeLaSalle Education Center	\$141,209.00	\$0
Discovering Options	\$36,678.00	\$500.00
Epworth Children & Family Services	\$218,724.00	\$96,454.00
Girls Incorporated Of St. Louis	\$64,564.00	\$3,125.00
Girls On The Run Of St. Louis	\$16,630.00	\$16,630.00
Heartland Foundation	\$96,533.00	\$0
Herbert Hoover Boys And Girls Club	\$245,005.00	\$37,899.00
K-Life Taney County	\$12,500.00	\$0
Kids In The Middle, Inc.	\$200,454.00	\$31,989.00
Kingdom House	\$195,897.00	\$104,200.00
Life Skills	\$59,241.00	\$22,539.00
Lives Under Construction Boys Ranch Inc.	\$130,600.00	\$6,892.00
Lutheran Family & Children's Services Of Missouri	\$193,764.00	\$73,779.00
MBCH Children & Family Ministries	\$250,000.00	\$24,250.00
Mexico Area Family YMCA	\$150,000.00	\$0
Progressive Youth Connection	\$15,245.00	\$0
Restart, Inc.	\$82,891.00	\$2,800.00
Sherwood Forest Camp Inc	\$206,330.00	\$41,443.00
South Side Day Nursery	\$100,000.00	\$45,805.00
St. Joseph Institute For The Deaf	\$75,000.00	\$0
St. Louis Artworks	\$19,760.00	\$16,799.00
St. Louis Crisis Nursery	\$150,770.00	\$8,600.00
St. Louis Police Athletic League	\$40,000.00	\$0
St. Luke Community Christian Center	\$100,000.00	\$0
St. Patrick Center	\$164,291.00	\$1,000.00
The Board For Inner City Missions (Neighborhood Houses)	\$85,355.00	\$0
The Children's Home Society Of Missouri	\$33,919.00	\$20,111.00
Touchpoint Autism Services	\$112,250.00	\$250.00
Whole Kids Outreach, Inc.	\$153,005.00	\$57,375.00
Women In Charge	\$52,354.00	\$0
YWCA Metro St. Louis	\$91,049.00	\$5,000.00
Youth Empowerment Zone	\$52,346.00	\$0